

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.

- vs -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al.

A F F I D A V I T

I had the honor to represent my King and country in Tokyo, as Belgian Ambassador, from December 1920 to February 1939. I was Dean of the Diplomatic Corps from December 1928 to February 1939, so I was in a position to know well the leaders of Japan during the two decades which preceded the second world war.

When I arrived in 1921 Japan seemed on its way to become a constitutional and parliamentary democracy on the European pattern. A series of unfortunate events changed the course of history. The worst elements in the land, which had no influence in 1921, gradually emerged from their position of insignificance and by degrees succeeded in winning to their silly ideas of dominating Asia and the world, first the army and finally the Japanese people (who will always follow any energetic leaders).

When I left Japan in 1939 an anonymous and collective dictatorship of the army held the country and its supposedly "absolute" monarch in their grip.

From my long personal contact with the Emperor I can declare that he is the most convinced "pacifist" that I have ever met. I feel certain that His Majesty did all He could to foil the plans of the war mongers and that, had He gone in further or sooner than He did in putting His foot down on the military clique and reaffirming His own supreme and legitimate authority, He would have been suppressed and the situation today would be infinitely worse than it is. I think this will become more and more evident as time passes.

With Mr. Hirota, Koki, I have had friendly relations for a great many years even before he became Prime Minister in March 1936 and Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1937-1938. I feel absolutely convinced that Mr. Hirota always used his real influence with the military leaders to restrain them to the best of his ability.

Baron Hiranuma and Mr. Shigemitsu may, in my opinion, be considered pretty much in the same light as Mr. Hirota. They were certainly not among the foolish hotheads who led Japan to disaster. But my acquaintance with them was by no means as intimate as with Mr. Hirota so that I cannot give as definitely formal an opinion about them as about Mr. Hirota.

I knew numbers of Japanese diplomats and statesmen who were too clever not to see the folly of a war against the U.S. and who, moreover, were sincerely and deeply in favor of international cooperation. Such were Count Nakino, Mr. Tsuneo Matsudaira, Admiral Suzuki, Viscount Matsudaira, Baron Shidehara, Mr. Satow, Mr. Kurusu and many more. Others of the same stamp died before the war: (Mr. Ishii, Mr. Tjuin, Mr. Adatci, Prince Saionji, etc.)

Written and signed at Brussels 24th July '47

(Signed) Bassompierre

With Mr. Kurusu I have had particularly friendly relations. For several years he was one of the Directors of the Gaimusho (Foreign Office) prior to 1936 when he was appointed Ambassador to Brussels. He arrived there with his family in July 1936 when I was home on furlough and I introduced him and his wife and daughter to all our friends in Belgium.

When I returned to Europe at the end of my mission in May 1937, Mr. Kurusu was still in Brussels but, much to his regret, he was transferred to Berlin in September when General Oshima was recalled for having been unable to warn the Japanese Government of the signature of the Russo German pact in August, of which he had been given no kind of notice before it was signed!!

Mr. Kurusu was at the head of the Berlin Embassy in September 1940, when he was ordered to sign the military alliance with Germany, and was then replaced once more by General Oshima. Before returning to Japan he came to Brussels in Febr. 41, to say goodbye to me and a few other friends. We were then under German occupation.

What Mr. Kurusu told me then I am not at liberty to reveal as he bound me to secrecy. But what I may and do affirm is that I had definite proof then that Mr. Kurusu personally disapproved the military pact he had signed and deeply regretted the trend of his government's policy which seemed to be in the direction of war.

If Mr. Kurusu chose to publish the details he gave me under the seal of secrecy, everyone would be convinced as I am, that when he accepted, in the fall of 1941, the mission to go to Washington to secord Admiral Nomura, he did it in perfect good faith, with the sole and sincere wish to strain every effort to maintain peace.

Written and signed at Brussels on July 24th, 1947

(Signed) Bassompierre

CERTIFICATE OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF EXECUTION OF AN INSTRUMENT

KINGDOM OF BELGIUM }
CITY OF BRUSSELS }
CONSULAR SECTION OF }
THE AMERICAN EMBASSY } ss:

I, Russell B. Jordan, Consul of the United States of America at Brussels, Belgium, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that on this 29th day of July 1947, before me personally appeared BARON ALBERT DE BASSOMPIERRE to me personally known, and known to me to be the individual described in, whose name is subscribed to, and who executed the annexed instrument, and being informed by me of the contents of said instrument he duly acknowledged to me that he executed the same freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and
official seal the day and year last above written.

(SEAL)

(Signed) Russell B. Jordan
Russell B. Jordan

Consul of the United States of America.

檢 察 署 事 調 判 所

亞米利加舍衆國 其 他

對

荒 木 貞 夫 其 他

宣 言 供 述 言

私は一九二〇年十二月から一九三九年二月まで白耳義王及び白耳義門を代表する光榮を有しました。私は一九二八年十二月から一九三九年二月まで外交局の局長でありましたので、第二次世界大戦前二十年間の日本の指導者等をよく知ることが出来ました。一九二一年私がやつて來た時には、日本は歐洲の手本に倣つて、憲法を確立に終り、民主政体になる途上にある上、に見えました。併し引継ぎ

起つた不幸な出来事は日本の歴史の方向を變えたのであります。

一九二一年には全然勢力のなかつた日本にむける景悪分子が漸次微賊上り身を起して次第に亞細亞及世界を支配するといつ最も考を懷く上りになりましたこれは最初は陸軍であり最後には一時も強力を指揮者のいつ獨りになる日本「民」であります。

一九三九年私が日本を去つた時には陸軍といつ醫名の集團的獨裁主義が日本及び「絶對的」と思われてゐる日本の君主をその手中に握つていました。

陛下と個人的に長い間接觸したことから、私は陛下が今まで私が會つた中で最も徹底した「平和主義者」であると明言することが出来ます。陛下は全力を盡して戰爭の計略を掲かれましたが、若し陛下が實際上よりも早く又は一步深く突込んで軍部に對して毅然たる態度をとり陛下の正當なる至上權を主張されたならば、陛下は抑壓され今日の事態は今上りはずつと悪くなつていたものと私は確信します。

この事は時が経つにつれて一層はつきりして來ること、思います。廣田弘毅氏とは彼が一九三六年三月總理大臣になり一九三七年から一九三八年迄外務大臣をやる前も私は多年親しく交際していました。私は

廣田氏が軍部の指導者達に實際に信用があるのを利用して出来るだけ彼等を抑えようとしていた事を絶対に確信するものであります。平沼男爵と彦光氏は、私の考では、廣田氏とほゞ同様に考えられます。彼等は、日本を災難に導いた歎かなせつかち層の中には確かに入っています。併し私と彼等との交際は廣田氏との交際ほど親密なものではありませんでしたから廣田氏に関する意見ほどはつまりした正式の意見を述べることは出来ません。

賢明で、米国と戦争する歎を悟つていたか更に「際間の協調に心から成して、いた日本の多くの外交官や政治家を私は知つていました。そついつゝ人達は、牧野伯爵、松本恒矩氏、鈴木大將、松平子爵、弊原男爵、佐藤氏、伊集院男爵、安達氏、西園寺公爵等がありました。

一九四七年七月二十四日

プラツセルズにて記
バツソンビエール（署名）

來橋氏とは特に親しい關係にありました。

彼がブラツセルズ駐劄大使に任命された一九三六年に先立つて年間、彼は外務省の局長の一人でした。彼は私が開設監督中の一九三六年七月、家族同伴でブラツセルズに到着しました。私は彼と夫人と娘とを自耳等の我々の友人全部に紹介しました。

私が一九三七年五月私の使命を果して歐洲に歸つて來た時、來橋氏はブラツセルズにまだおりましたが、大島將軍が、獨露協定調印の何等の通知を受けてなかつたにも拘らず、八月に行われた獨協定の調印を日本政府に報告出来なかつたために日本に召喚された時に、來橋氏は殘念ながら九月柏林に轉勤になりました。

來橋氏は一九四〇年九月柏林大使館の長でありましたが獨逸との軍事問題に印方を命ぜられました、それからもつて一度大島將軍と交渉しました。日本に歸る前、私と二、三の他の友人に別れを告げに一九四一年二月、彼はブラツセルズに参りました。その時我々は獨逸の占領下にありました。その時來橋氏が私に語つた事は、私に秘密を守つて呉れとの事でしたからそれを明かすにはいきません。併し私が所言してよい事は、

來栖氏が自分で認印した軍事協定を個人的には否認した事、並びに日本政府の政策が戦争の方向に向つていろと思われる事を深く歎いていた事、を表わす所かな證據を當時私が撮つたことあります
若し來栖氏が、秘密を守るといつ約束で私に語つた詳細を自ら発表した
ら彼が一九四一年の秋ワシントンに行つて野村大將を助ける使命を受け
た時に彼が唯言葉をもつて平和維持のため全力を盡すことだけを念願と
していたことを何人も私と同様に確信することあります。

一九四七年七月二十四日

プラッセルズにて記載署名

バツソンビエール（署名）

官類の記名調印確認に関する證明書

白耳義王
ラツセルズ市
米大使館領事課

正當に任命され、資格を與えられたる白耳義王ラツセルズ駐劄、亞米利加合衆國領事ラツセルズデヨーダンは、一九四七年七月二十九日、自分^の直接の知り合であり添附官類に記載されたる人でありその名が同書に署名されてあり、同書に記名調印せる、アルバート・ド・バツソンビエール男爵、自身小生のもとに出頭、若官類の内容を小生より聽取したる後同書に記載せる目的のもとに自發的に同書に記名調印せしことを確認せることを茲に證明す

證據として前記年月日の翌日この官類に署名捺印す

ラツセルズデヨーダン(署名)
亞米利加合衆國領事